

SITE INFORMATION SUMMARY

Bla...co

United Heckathorn
401 Wright Street
Richmond, CA

AR0036

HISTORY:

United Heckathorn/Chemwest Inc. occupied the site now owned by Parr-Richmond Terminal Company from 1957 to 1967. The company formulated and packaged agricultural chemicals including DDT, Malathion, Phosdrin, and Dieldrin. The Universal Pigment and Chemical Company was located on the site prior to 1957.

DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM:

Both Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and Department of Fish and Game (DFG) files indicate that United Heckathorn had extensive waste discharge problems, including two convictions of illegal discharges of DDT wastes into the ship channel adjacent to the property. A security guard who has worked in the area since 1944 believes United Heckathorn was a problem area and stated that the smell of chemicals was still evident in the area.

The Universal Pigment and Chemical Company may have also contributed to soil contamination. This company had problems with acid waste spillage during the production of napalm. However, record searches have failed to turn up any information about this company.

The property located in an industrial section of Richmond is now completely fenced and patrolled by a security guard, leaving little or no public access.

SAMPLING AND RESULTS:

The site was inspected and sampled by ASP staff. The samples, analyzed for heavy metals, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and organo-phosphate pesticide contamination, showed significant levels of DDT, DDE, lindane, and aldrin.

CLEAN-UP AND MITIGATION MEASURES:

The Parr-Richmond Terminal Company has changed ownership as of May 1, 1981. The new owner is not aware of the pesticide contamination on part of the newly acquired land. A more extensive sampling program is needed to define any problems with waste at the site. The Department will continue to work with the new owner.

Dale